

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 40-44, 49, 51, and 60-72 are pending in this application.

Claims 41 and 44 are objected to.

Claims 40, 42, 43, 49, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Kaneko or Hibino.

Claims 41 and 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 60-72 are allowed.

With this response, claims 40, 41, 44, 49 and 51 are amended, and claims 73-76 are added.

REMARKS

None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest an image reading device that is detachably attached to the carriage of an image processing apparatus having a memory arranged to store reference data and a correction unit arranged to correct an image signal with the reference data like that of the present invention.

Also, none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest either obtaining identification information representing an image reading device mounted on a carriage or storing a plurality of reference data representing a predetermined reference signal level from an image reading device in association with the identification information of the image reading device.

The Hibino reference discloses nothing more than matching image correction information with film cartridge ID information, detecting the ID information of the mounted film cartridge, and correcting the film read-out signal using the correction data stored in the apparatus main unit. The Kaneko reference discloses no more than detecting whether or not the light reflected from a subject is fluorescent light, and switching white balance control. None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest obtaining image reading device identification information as in the present invention.

Moreover, none of the references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest reading out reference data from storage corresponding to identification information obtained by an obtaining unit and setting the readout reference data in the memory of an image reading device mounted on a carriage.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 40, 42, 43, 49, 51, and 60-72 are in condition for allowance.

In the instant office action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 41 and 44 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form”. With this Amendment, Applicants rewrite claims 41 and 44 in independent form, and accordingly believe these claims to be in condition for allowance.

Further with this amendment, Applicants add new claims 73 and 74 which depend from claim 41, and new claims 75 and 76 which depend from claim 44. Applicants believe these new claims to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 41 and 44 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' counsel at the telephone number given below.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4393US1. Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4393US1. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 26, 2003

By: _____



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